

Big Sky Roundup



<http://montanamsgs.org>

2013-2014 Officers

July 2014

President's Message

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Newsletter Editor – Shawna Valentine

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On a recent trip to Helena, I stopped by the Montana Historical Society in hopes of obtaining several obituaries and wedding notices. As always, the staff was most accommodating, and within minutes my list of towns and dates materialized in a basket of microfilmed newspapers. From there to the reader and I was off down the wonderful road of rediscovering the past.

In the pursuit of a wedding announcement, I came across a small article in the 10 April 1914 issue of the "Plentywood Herald" entitled "One's Ancestors". Well, that was enough of a headline to get me sidetracked off my mission!! It began with the question: "How many male and female ancestors were required to bring you into the world?" I am not going to begin to double check their math, but according to their undocumented calculations, they reported 139,235,017,489,534,976 births were necessary between the birth of Christ and 1914.

Realistically, the translation of this figure to a family tree is impossible, and the pursuit of our ancestors as just a numbers game overlooks the wonderful stories that emerge with each generation. But, the article did remind me that the opportunities to discover new ancestors are endless. The farther I look back, the more I look forward to my next discovery.

I experience the same excitement when it comes to the MSGS Conferences. This year we celebrate our 25th Anniversary which gives us an opportunity to look back and remember all the special memories and friends we have made through the years. But, as the plans come together, I am also eagerly awaiting what lies ahead. So, think back and remember how many Conferences you have attended and then get ready to add another one – Helena in 2014 is a Conference that shouldn't be missed!

Shawna Valentine, President

Summary of the July 19, 2014 MSGS Board Meeting



The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by President Shawna Valentine. Secretary Kathy Patrick's Roll Call showed 8 members and one chapter liaison were present. The minutes were corrected and approved as read.

Terry Atwood, treasurer, reported conference bills are coming in. With all bills paid and Societies dues received there is \$316.30 in the checking and \$17,036.28 in the savings. The report was accepted.

First Vice-President Verba Valentine is pulling together another great conference. This year there will be special recognition for those members who have attended 20 or more conferences. The banquet speaker, Pam Attardo, Lewis and Clark County Historic Preservation Officer, will address Helena's 150th Birthday. Plans are well underway for 2015 and 2016 also.

Shirley Rogers, second Vice-President, is planning to have four major raffle prizes. Local Societies need to help by bringing door prizes.

The Registrar's Report by Mary Pitch showed the total membership of MSGS at 691 members.

Committee Reports included Nominating: Betty Marshall reported President (Shawna Valentine) 1st Vice President (Verba Valentine), Treasurer (Terry Atwood) are open to election at our annual meeting. First Families: Al Stoner reported that one more book has been sold. She would like to see the cut off for Vol. IV in Spring 2015 and that this is the final volume. Library: Karen Huck said that new computers have been installed, books are being cataloged, and queries answered. She wanted to remind us we can search our genealogy library from the website <http://mymontanalibrary.org/> choosing Montana State Genealogical Library. Facebook: Shirley Rogers told us of the pictures she wants to post to our page in anticipation of our conference. She and Fran Jensen are working to keep things interesting and informative. If you have ideas let her know. The Preserve the Pensions for the War of 1812 Fund Drive was discussed.

Future Board Meeting Dates: Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 3:30 at the Colonial and Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 10:00 am at the Lewis and Clark Library, Helena.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Patrick, Secretary

Calling for Award Nominations

The **Anna Mae Hanson Award** is given by MSGS in acknowledgment of dedicated service in the genealogical community. Named in recognition of MSGS founding member, Anna Mae Hansen, that quietly gave many, many hours and never asked to have attention for her efforts. Because of her fine example to other genealogists, an annual award is given at the state conference in her name to a genealogist who is an outstanding person, works beyond what is expected of them and is very dedicated to the field of genealogy.

MSGS will also accept nominations for the **Al Huntsman Award**. Named in honor of past president, Al Huntsman, this award will be presented to businesses or individuals who are not affiliated with a member genealogical society, but have been instrumental in helping promote genealogy.

Nominations for either award will be accepted from any MSGS member and should be submitted in a written letter sent to Awards Committee Chairman, Mardi Whitmore, PO Box 1111, Livingston MT 59047 or emailed to her at mardellaw@juno.com so she has it by September 10th. Awards will be presented at the banquet Friday evening at the conference.

Local Society Reports at Conference Lunches

Meals at conferences are a great way to meet and visit with new people and to learn what is happening around the state. Each meal provides time to visit among your table mates and both lunches are utilized as a time to share what your local society has been up to for the past year. Time is given to a representative from each local society present at lunch on either Friday or Saturday to give a **brief** summary of their accomplishments and activities for the year. Reports shouldn't be elaborate or lengthy, but give some thought as to who will speak for your society and what your year's highlights have been or what you are looking forward to next year!

It's our Silver Anniversary Conference!

Help Us Celebrate at Helena, Montana

September

25, 26, 27, 2014

2 National Speakers

8 Topics



Curt B. Witcher

Senior Manager for Special Collections at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana

Topics:

- Historical Research Methodology: Engaging the Process to find All the Answers
- Using Military Records for Genealogical Research
- Mining the Mother Lode: Using Periodical Literature and PERSI for Genealogical Research
- Fingerprinting Our Families: Using Ancestral Origins as a Genealogical Research Key

David E. Rencher



Chief Genealogical Officer for Family Search in Salt Lake

City & Leading Expert on Irish Genealogy

Topics:

- Irish Jurisdictions and Reference Works
- Digital Projects and Programs of FamilySearch
- Mining the Destination Data
- Methodology for Irish Immigration and Emigration".

The Complete Conference Schedule & Registration Form may be downloaded at:

<http://montanamsgs.org/conferences.html>

Find the Silver Linings in Your Tree



Montana State Genealogical Society
25th Anniversary Helena 2014

Red Lion Colonial Hotel
Helena, Montana
2301 Colonial Drive
September 25, 26, 27, 2014

Banquet Program

PAM ATTARDO, Helena/Lewis & Clark County Heritage Preservation Officer will present the Banquet talk on **Helena's a Golden Oldie – Happy 150th**

Book Frolic

Check your bookcases for items of **genealogical or historical interest** such as annuals, directories, county histories, genealogy books, tapes, software or videos that you would be willing to donate for use in this silent auction.

PLEASE – NO Quarterlies, or Outdated Material.

Items should be brought to the conference area on Thursday so they will be ready to view starting first thing on Friday morning. The Frolic area will NOT be open on Thursday for browsing – just for dropping off.

Deadlines:

- **August 26:** Deadline to reserve sleeping rooms at the Conference Headquarters, the Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Phone: 406-443-2100, Mention MSGS Conference
- **September 3:** Early Bird Deadline. Be sure your registration form has been mailed for the possibility of receiving up to \$55 of the Registration refunded.
- **September 15:** Conference Registrations must received by our Registrar in order to guarantee meals & t-shirts at the conference.

Door Prizes

These are always fun to get, but we need items to give away at our meal events.

Please bring wrapped gift items & turn them in to the Registration Desk when you pick up your badges. If the gift is gender specific, please note Male or Female on the outside.

Memorial Service

If a member of your society has passed away since the last conference, please let Judy Cohen know ASAP so that she may include them in the Memorial Service at the Friday Evening Banquet.

An obituary & picture are appreciated.

Judy's email address is: bumpie6@bresnan.net



Beaver Head Hunters – Dillon

The Head Hunters have had an interesting and fun year. We started the year by reading the goals we set for ourselves last year, hoping to find that we had accomplished the goals. Some were successful, and others were still struggling with those goals. We then set new goals for next year. We found that hoping to solve a brick wall was not usually a doable goal!

Our next meeting was called "Love Your Ancestors". Each member brought a family heirloom to tell about, with a little story about the ancestor who owned it. We saw some amazing items that were quite unusual. We posted pictures of all the items on our web page.

We had a spring workshop again this year, with Ellen Crain, from the Butte Archives, as key speaker. She spoke of many different sources that can be found, and where to find them. Nancy Alley, the second speaker, spoke on Norwegian and Swedish research, and Pat Darling spoke on using newspapers for research. It was an interesting and useful workshop.

We were pleased to learn that the university library has had all the Dillon newspapers digitized. They will soon be placed online, and this will become a major source of research for patrons looking for their Beaverhead County ancestors.

We have again started staffing our summer research program at the museum. Eight members each work one or two afternoons a week helping museum visitors who come in requesting research on their ancestors. Using our many resources we are usually able to find many sources of information for them. One of our biggest resources is a digital collection of thousands of records from the museum which have been entered into PastPerfect, the collection management program for museums. Several members have worked tirelessly entering data such as the artifact collection of the museum, every book in the library, the archives, map collection, family files, vertical files, photos, etc. Entering a keyword into the program will bring up every entry connected with that word. This has helped us locate many hidden records that we never would have found by searching the shelves. This is a genealogist's dream!

This summer we will have a summer outing to Sacajawea Park at Lemhi Pass, and later in the summer we will have another cemetery walk. We also answer many queries and take photos for FindAGrave. We keep mighty busy.

Submitted by Pat Darling, BHH Liaison

Broken Mountains Genealogical Society – Chester

The Broken Mountains Genealogical Society had one of the two scheduled meetings for the year in July. Most of the members were there and we started our business with a report from the various projects that are ongoing which most are because people keep passing away and more burials and obituaries are generated. Then records need to be updated as well as our web site. The burial committee has finished one phase of their cemetery mapping. The group had a work meeting at the cemetery and an article appeared in the paper a bit ago showing the results.

We looked at our subscription to Ancestry.com as it runs out in January. We are going to work with the Family History Center to see what material we want to preserve and how we can do that. We did set up a couple work meetings with their library people and several members spent time up at their Center.

We talked about our web site and what things we have on it. A recent addition to the site is stories that we have collected in a large notebook. Marji Dahinden typed many of these stories and then ended up scanning several more. These stories are about early life in Chester and many of the folks have since passed away. To access them, go to: www.brokenmountains.org where they will find a bar above the introductory photo which will lead to many other interests. Each title on this bar has pull down menus that can be accessed by clicking on to that topic. The third topic is stories and when the pull down menu is tapped upon, the whole list is there and one needs to scroll down to any one of interest and open that story. They are as written which makes them much more interesting. These stories can be read and copied. The whole site is very easy to navigate and we invite you to read some of the stories. [MSG Editor's note: One of these stories, "My Mother's Elopement" will appear in the October Issue.]

We did decide to write an article or two for the local newspaper about our site to encourage others to become interested in genealogical workings.

Submitted by Pat Ludwig, BMGS Liaison

Flathead Valley Genealogical Society – Kalispell

The Flathead Valley Genealogical society has been busy these last few months. We are now sponsoring the Flathead County Genweb, part of the Montana genweb site and are busy trying to upgrade and add new items for this website. Check us out at www.mtgenweb.com, then Flathead county. We are still working on the cemetery project and are particularly concentrating on Conrad Cemetery at this time. This is a large cemetery with over 16,000 interments. The society members have been actively posting pictures on findagrave and updating information into an excel file which is then being posted on the genweb site. We are also hoping to post current information on the interments in Woodlawn cemetery by the end of the summer. We had some wonderful programs this spring, on courthouse records, genealogical findings through historical research, and emigration/naturalization records. The society decided to not hold meetings in July and August, however, the society led a group to take pictures at the Conrad cemetery in July and over 200 pictures were taken and are being posted on findagrave. We will resume in September with a program on cemetery records and a cemetery picture taking session for society members and the community.

Submitted by Vickie Rowley, FVGS Liaison

Gallatin County Genealogical Society – Bozeman

Spring 2014 proved a busy time for the society with elections, new indexing projects and a visit to Montana State University's Special Collections before breaking for the summer. In May, the Executive Board met to create a specific list of duties for each of the seven officer positions. This information was provided to members prior to the election of officers for 2014-2015. The following people were elected during the society's May 10, 2014 meeting: President: Bonnie Jackson; Vice-President: Karen Maika; Secretary: Linda Gengenbacher; Treasurer: Norma Ardeson; Project Manager: Tricia Thompson

Webmaster: Jenn Vieth; and State Liaison: Carol Elliott. Members also approved a change to the society's meeting schedule. The GCGS has been meeting each month on the second Saturday, September through May with no official meeting in December. Members discussed problems with scheduling speakers and attendance decline for the March meeting due to spring break conflicts. Members approved eliminating the March meeting.

In partnership with the Bozeman Public Library staff, GCGS members started a new, very long-term project to index vital record information reported in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle from 1910 to 1979. Members review microfilmed copies and enter record data and issue source information into our existing online vital records index database. The library staff started with 1910 issues. GCGS chose to start with the 1979 issues and index backwards chronologically because this information is the hardest for genealogists to obtain due to privacy laws preventing public access to more recent vital records. As part of National Caring activities, six Belgrade High School students helped GCGS index these records for their community service project and learned some community history as well.

Members also completed indexing all 53 volumes of voter registration records at the Pioneer Museum in Bozeman. This completed index with over 21,000 entries is accessible online from the GCGS website. Since March 2014, members have added over 12,700 entries to the index databases for a total of over 65,700 records.

In April, members had a unique opportunity to meet with Kim Scott, University Archivist and Head of Special Collections at Montana State University. His excellent presentation covered archivist responsibilities, the scope of the MSU Special Collections, how to access the library's catalog for research, procedures for reviewing special collection materials in the restricted reading room, online sources for MSU materials and online research tips. He also showed the group several rare or unusual original documents from the MSU collection.

Submitted by Carol Elliott, GCGS State Liaison

Great Falls Genealogy Society – Great Falls

The Great Falls Genealogy Society Library has been a busy place—with summer, we welcome visitors from across the United States, and occasionally, Canada. With nearly 10,000 books, CDs, and Collections, plus programs available on our patron computers, we stay busy the 30 hours per week that we are open. We were saddened that our Great Falls Public Library had to reduce days, beginning July 1; that meant that we went from 36 hours open per week, down to 30 hours per week. Our GFGS Library is located on the 3rd floor of the public library, and we are open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM. We always have volunteers available to help our patrons.

This summer the Acquisitions Committee (hard workers, all) has been busy revitalizing our Acquisitions guidelines and procedures. As we work through that process, we plan to publish our new Acquisitions Guidelines for all members in early fall, probably September. Watch the next State Newsletter for our updated report on Acquisition Guidelines. Our Society is almost 40 years old—hard to believe. We have a very enthusiastic membership, almost 200 in all.

We have just about finished the electronic index for the George Company Mortuary Records—spanning about 75 years of history in Great Falls. The final draft involved finding and publishing a large number of files not previously available in the original set of index cards. Many of our Society volunteers helped with the task—and this made the project very doable.

Take time to go to gfgenealogy.org, and you will be able to use our free indices of Cascade County local histories and some from surrounding counties, too (FREE). Pull all the way down on our home page for the latest information and our considerable number of files available to all. You will find that our Cemetery listings for Cascade County go through 2012—and our Marriage indices are there, also. In cooperation with the County and with the History Museum, we recently became the caretakers of Cascade County's school censuses, spanning 1887 through 2006. Our Treasure State Lines quarterly is also available online. If you check out the Cascade County site at familysearch.org, you'll see that much of our material is available (FREE) there—over 600,000 records!

We invite groups to come visit us and use our genealogy library—if you are coming, let us know so we can best accommodate your needs. Remember, we are open, 10-4 PM, Tuesday through Saturday, and our Collection (a listing is available at our web site) includes Montana, the United States, Canada, our Montana Indian tribes, and many, many foreign countries.

Submitted by Janet Thomson, GFGS President

Lewis & Clark County Genealogy Society – Helena

At our April meeting several members shared stories of their female ancestors including one member's paternal grandmother who gave birth to 18 children, 2 stillborn, between 1916 and 1940. The family endured many hardships, during the Depression, but hung together through everything. Another member told of her great-grandmother coming over from Ireland as a young child and as a young woman settling in Laurel, MT. Another told of her maternal grandmother who gave birth to numerous children all with different last names. Another spoke of her mother who started out life in a wonderful setting only to be torn from it by circumstances beyond her control. Her early education was lacking but she made up for it later in life. We plan to continue sharing stories of our female ancestors during the rest of the year.

In May Karen Huck discussed & demonstrated how to use Family Search and Ancestry.com giving us a lot of helpful hints. She stressed that it is very helpful to have a thumb drive whenever you visit libraries so that you can save documents to take home and manipulate on your own computer before printing.

Our June speaker was our snow bird, Al Stoner, who teaches genealogy classes in the winter in Mesa in her RV Park. Al brought some story boards that were used for the park's Hobby Day. The topic was newspapers and how we can use newspapers to look for our ancestors. She mentioned several types of stories such as fires, weddings, notices of people traveling, people going into the military, stories that we read about every day.

The decorations committee for the state conference started making plans back last fall and has been secretly working on their projects to help us celebrate the state's 25th conference in September. We can hardly wait to see what they have come up with.

We all look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this upcoming conference September 25-27th right here in Helena. You all come!

Submitted by Mary Pitch, LCCGS President

Park County Genealogy Society – Livingston

PCGS has been very busy on a series of projects. During the last year we have added a wealth of information to our research collection, which is held at the Livingston Public Library. These collections include binders of obituaries spanning from 1998 to current times, Park County Citizenship & Naturalization Indexes (declaration of intent and final papers), Park County Coroner's Inquest Register Index, and Park County Military Discharge Index up to 2001. We have several more collections to digitize and add. We welcome guests to come and use our collections for their research.

Since May, our excitement with the military records has risen to a new level when the American Legion Park Post 23 donated several boxes of veteran's records to us. We have kept very busy working to clean and file these records. Some of these include Veteran's Burial Cards, Park County Servicemen & Casualties of WWII, as well as scholarship awards for Nurses Training. Once we have all these records cleaned, we can assess where to go next with these records.

Submitted by Christy Beatty, PCGS

Cemetery Walk Scheduled in Livingston

The Cemetery Walk will be Saturday, August 23, at 1:00 p.m. at Calvary Cemetery in Livingston. Come and learn about some of the former members of St. Mary's Church who are buried in Calvary Cemetery. The talks will be on 8 residents- Dorinda Tecca, founder of Tecca's Grocery Stores, Mary Bouchee, one of railroad workers during WW I, Helen Rose Lee Latch and husband, business owners on B Street, Rose Preste Adkins Scalise, an adoptee who found her birth mother, the famous Rigler ranch family, Pete Pugliano Sr. and Jr. Owners of clothing stores and grocery stores. There will be a few surprise speakers. Cost is \$8.00 and is a fund raiser for Park County Historical and Genealogy Society. Questions call Nancy Adkins 333-2305 or Jack Luther 222-5275 or Mardi Whitmore 222-7126.



Yellowstone Genealogy Forum – Billings

Members of the Forum participated at Family History Day at an LDS ward on March 1 by having an information table. This was during a snowstorm with sub-zero temperatures so attendance was low. P. J. Smith gave a presentation on the Forum.

On two Sunday afternoons, members were available to help researchers at Barnes & Noble Bookstore. After a brief introduction to genealogy, including pedigree charts, family group sheets, and census records, Forum members paired with a member of the public to help with research.

On April 29th, P. J. Smith presented a program at the Billings Public Library on "Tracing Your Civil War Ancestors". The library received a grant to present a series of programs on topics related to the Civil War. P. J. gave background on the war, information on what you need to begin research, then websites that may have data on your ancestor. Several members brought artifacts and research from the Civil War era.

"Friends of the Library" met last month at the Genealogy Library for an introduction to genealogy and hands-on research in the library computer room. Louise LaRue assisted librarian Amy Davis.

Annual meeting in May allows officers and chairpersons to thank those who have helped during the past year. We celebrate with dessert. The program that evening was a repeat of the Civil War program that P. J. Smith gave at the public library.

The June meeting was a work session for members. Shawna Valentine was available to help those who are trying to qualify for First Families/Early Settlers. Members who were not applying for it were asked to bring their "brick walls" to receive research help.

Our new website <http://yellowstonegenealogy.org/> is very user friendly. It has information available only to members such as the recent Gen-Bug, program handouts, and a surname registry. It lists all the books available in our genealogy library, programs, events, information about Billings and Yellowstone County, and contact information. We are trying to phase out paper copies of the newsletter as it is available on-line.

Forum volunteers are at the Genealogy Library almost every day of the week, mainly in the afternoons. There were 28 visitors in June. If you are in Billings and need research help, please stop by the Billings Public Library, second floor.

Submitted by P. J. Smith, YGF President



The Man Behind the Heirloom

by J. Mark Lowe

While participating in the 2013 MSGS conference in Bozeman, I presented the topic, "Circuit Riders and the Early Methodist Church." There were several questions and comments from attendees, including a gentleman who participated in the local Yellowstone Conference meetings. During the next day's session, a gentleman came over to the table where I was sitting and showed me an old

family book which was a copy of *The Doctrines and Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, published by T. Mason and G. Lane. J. Collord, Printer, about 3 x 5 inches and about 1 inch thick. It was the 1836 copy of the Discipline. As I became amazed at his family possession, I was somewhat speechless. In my excitement, I failed to write down his name and e-mail along with the provenance of this item within his family. I did look at the frontispage and read part of the description: Bot from David Whitcomb on April 11, 1838 for one dollar.

Since I had failed to write down the owner's name, I asked Verba Valentine if she might remember who he might be. She thought she knew, contacted him, and he shared his recollection about our meeting. "I showed Mark a shirt pocket sized book that had been handed down in my father's mother's family (Garrett) when they were living in Highland County, Ohio. Title of the book was *Doctrines and Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church* printed in 1836 at New York. I thought he might be interested in Section IX, the Duties of those in charge of Circuits. Mark was interested in the name of Mrs. L. Byrons whose name was in the flyleaf with the name of Rev. V. Whitcomb on April 11, 1838." (Gary George, Livingston MT)

Before I left Bozeman, I checked my favorite Methodist sources and found the following announcement of his death at the 1866 Ohio Conference:

Quest. 12. Who have Died this year?

David Whitcomb, Levi White,* W. E. Spahr, M. Marlay*—4.

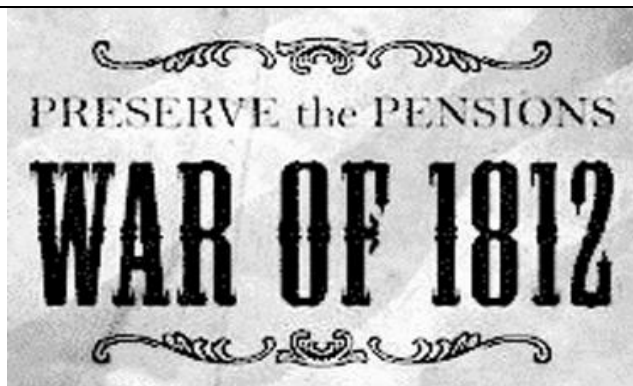
1. Rev. David Whitcomb was born in 1797, in West Virginia, where he was happily converted to God under the ministry of the Rev. Mr. Strother, and he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church. From the time of his conversion, such was his consistent Christian life that although he was in the midst of a community many of whom were irreligious, they were constrained to say that David Whitcomb was clearly converted. Hence he had the confidence of those who knew him, both in and out of the Church. His call to the work of the holy ministry was strong and convincing to himself, and so satisfactory to the Church that he was soon authorized to preach the gospel, and was recommended to the Ohio Conference, to be holden in Hillsborough September, 1826, where he was received into the traveling connection, and soon gave such proof of his divine call to the work of the ministry as to satisfy the Church that she had not laid hands suddenly or imprudently on him, but that he gave early evidence that he would be an effective laborer in the vineyard of the Lord, which his subsequent life and labors demonstrated. He labored successively and successfully in the following fields: In 1826, Logan Circuit; 1827, Nicholas; 1828, Kenawha; 1829-30, Burlington; 1831, Portsmouth, supernumerary; 1832, Cincinnati; 1833, Lebanon; 1834-35, Zanesville; 1836, Westchester; 1837, New Richmond; 1838, Batavia; 1839, superannuated; 1840, Dayton; 1841, Hamilton and Rossville; 1842, Columbus; 1843-44, Columbus District; 1845, Chillicothe Charge; 1846-47, Portsmouth; 1848, superannuated, and in 1847 removed to Indiana, and settled on a farm near Shelbyville, where he labored for the support of his family, and to have something to give to the needy and to the support of the gospel, relinquishing his claims on the funds of the conference. On all of his fields of toil he added seals to his ministry, who will come forth in the resurrection morning to call him blessed, and be stars in his crown of rejoicing in the day of the Lord Jesus. Last fall, while on a visit to his friends in Butler County, he preached frequently in Monroe Station and in the vicinity. He frequently said that he was conscious that his bodily strength was failing; but he would add; that "my confidence in God, and my hope of eternal life is unshaken." On the 17th day of May 1866, he was suddenly attacked with paralysis, which in six short hours of unconsciousness ended his toil and sufferings in this vale of tears.

Thus closed the long and useful life of one who lived to be and do good. None knew David Whitcomb but to love him as a pure minded honorable Christian gentleman, and we should rejoice that he has finished his course with joy, and the ministry that he received of the Lord Jesus. May we meet him in heaven, where all our sufferings will be over! Amen (Obituary of David Whitcomb, Report of Cincinnati Conference, 1866 p 149; Minutes of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the Year 1866. New York: Published by Carlton & Porter [Google Books])

It would be interesting to determine where the family of the current Discipline Book's owner lived during these events. It is obvious that the book was sold in Ohio in 1838. This is the year after David Whitcomb stopped traveling as a itinerant minister and became a superannuated minister. By examining conference records, they collected \$16 for his support that year. Compare the \$1 he received for the book he sold. After a short rest, he continued his service as an itinerant (or circuit rider) minister again.

His family noted that Bishop Randolph S. Foster wrote in 1897 concerning Rev. David Whitcomb as follows: "When I entered the ministry, he was esteemed as one of the most noble and distinguished members of the Ohio Conference. I counted it my good fortune that I fell into his hands (he was Presiding Elder) at an early stage of my ministry. He was a preacher of rare excellence and power; his visits were always hailed by the church and ministers with great delight and profit. As a preacher, he had few equals. He did all his work with painstaking and conscientious care. In all his relations he distinguished himself as an honorable manly man." (*The Whitcomb Family in America*, Charlotte Whitcomb. (Minneapolis: Charlotte Whitcomb, 1904.)

This renowned minister still keeps me digging through records to learn more about him. He is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery. The Cincinnati Conference in a later memorial reported that he entered the Cincinnati Conference in 1826, and served 40 years in the ministry. He died in 1866 at age 69. I've learned he was born in 1796 in Vermont. He first married a young girl in Virginia who died soon after their marriage and then married Magdeline Frances, who continued with him until his death. They had four children: Welton Morris (1834); James Leander (1841); Harry Howard (1844) and Caroline (1848).



Preserve the Pensions Digitization Project

The Pension Records from the War of 1812 are among the most requested documents at the National Archives.

These fragile documents are in dire need of digitization, which means the digitization of 7.2 million pages. Cost per page is about 45 cents. Currently ancestry.com is matching contributions, so now your \$45.00 contribution will digitize 200 pages. Digitized images appear on fold3.com as they are completed and will remain FREE to everyone indefinitely.

MSGs supports this drive to both preserve valuable records and to make them accessible to everyone. A voluntary opportunity will be available at the Helena Conference to donate to this worthwhile cause, and **MSGs will match**

all contributions up to \$500. Please consider contributing individually or making it a local society project. If you are unable to attend, to have your contribution matched by MSGs, please mail to: Terry Atwood, 4230 Wolverine, Helena MT 59602 by September 22, 2014

All contributions are tax deductible.
Checks are payable to: FGS-War of 1812

**For more information, see
www.preservethepensions.org**

Were your ancestors in Montana before 1930?

If so, why not honor them by submitting them for inclusion in Volume IV of First Families and Early Settlers of Montana, published by MSGS.

This may be the last volume published, so don't delay. Submit by May 2015!

Direct ancestors as well as siblings of direct ancestors are eligible.

Submissions may include the ancestor's photo and a short story. Certificates are issued for accepted applications.

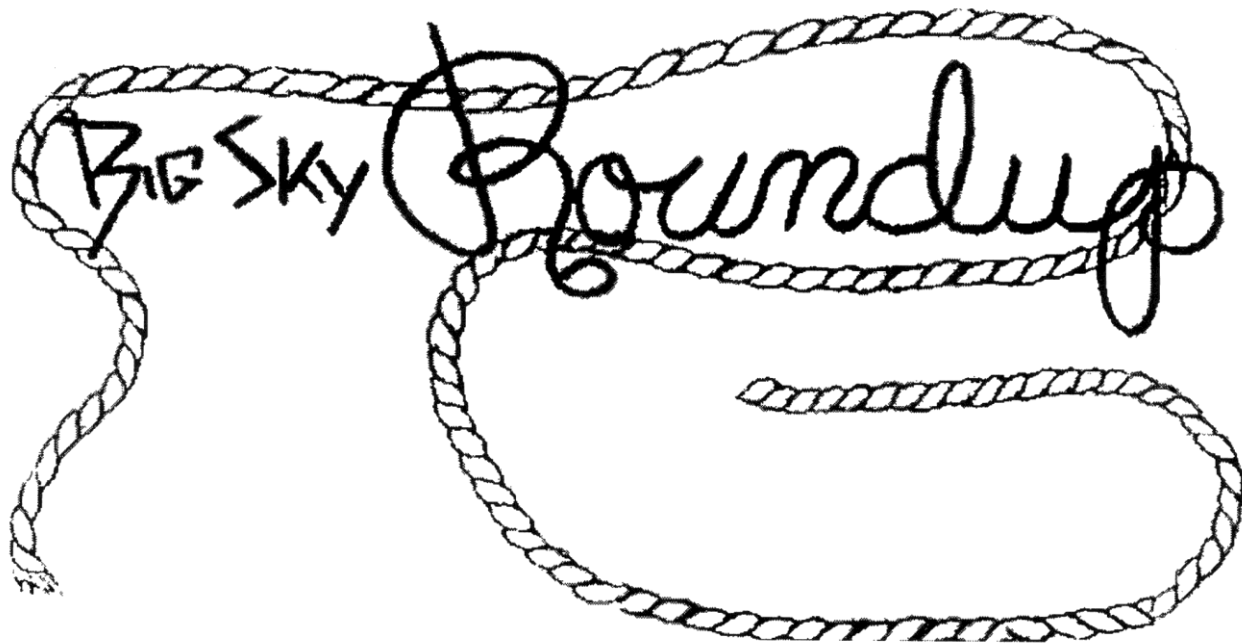
Volumes I, II, & III are also for sale.

For more information & application forms, see our website:

<http://montanamsgs.org/firstfamilies.html>



Terry Atwood
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